

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8273

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2794

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR NL

SUBJ: DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER'S STOPOVER IN ATHENS

1. DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL STOPPED OVER IN ATHENS FOR SOMETHING LESS THAN 24 HOURS ON FRIDAY, APRIL 4. WHILE HERE HE CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS, ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER STAVROPOULOS, AND WENT TO THE VISITORS GALLERY OF THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT WHERE HE RECEIVED A STANDING OVATION AND HEARD MANY WORDS OF PRAISE FROM GREEK POLITICAL LEADERS FOR HIS POLITICAL STANCE AGAINST THE JUNTA DURING GREECE'S PERIOD OF DICTATORSHIP.

2. ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM VAN DER STOEL, THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR IN ATHENS SOUGHT ME OUT RECENTLY TO PASS ON HIS FOREIGN MINISTER'S IMPRESSIONS OF THE SITUATION IN GREECE AND HIS CONTACTS WITH GREEK OFFICIALS. VAN DER STOEL REPORTEDLY LEFT GREECE IN A SOMEWHAT PESSIMISTIC FRAME OF MIND, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS AND AN ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT ON CYPRUS. ACCORDING TO THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR, VAN DER STOEL FOUND CARAMANLIS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT TURKISH INTENTIONS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME INCIDENT OR EVEN HOSTILITIES BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY. VAN DER STOEL REPORTEDLY OFFERED TO CARAMANLIS TO TRY AND BE HELPFUL IN ANY WAY HE COULD--INCLUDING SOME SPECIAL EC-9 INITIATIVE--

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IN DEALING WITH THE UNSETTLED CYPRUS PROBLEM. CARAMANLIS

EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND SAID ABOUT THE ONLY THING ANYONE
COULD DO, INCLUDING THE EC-9, WOULD BE TO TRY AND PUT MORE
PRESSURE ON TURKEY TO MAKE SUFFICIENT CONCESSIONS ON CYPRUS
TO MAKE A SETTLEMENT POSSIBLE. KUBISCH

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